

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by Szajewski et al. '607.

With reference to the rejection of the claims based on Szajewski et al. '607, the reference to Szajewski et al. '607 is not believed to anticipate or make obvious the specific features required by amended claims 1 and 4. More specifically, amended claim 1 requires an imaging system that comprises a reader adapted to read an identification associated with photographic film, with the identification identifying the photographic film as compatible with a dry processing; and a developing station adapted to process a dry process photographic film to produce images exposed on the film, wherein only film identified by the reader as being compatible with dry processing is processed at the developing station.

The dry process with respect to the claimed invention is described, for example, on page 8 of the application. Further, the features of the claimed invention with respect to the reader and the developing station are described on pages 8 and 9 of the specification. More specifically, with regard to the present invention, it is beneficial to provide for identification on a film or cassette, such that a processor that is adapted for dry process film will only accept film intended for dry processing. In the present invention, a reader can be provided on a dry processor or developer that interrogates presented films for compatibility for dry processing. It is beneficial for the production of quality images that a processor adapted for dry process film accepts only film intended for dry film processing. Therefore, in the present invention, prior to processing or developing, a reader reads an identification associated with the film to determine if the film is compatible with a dry processing. If compatible, the film is introduced to a developer or processor which is adapted to dry process photographic films identified as being compatible with dry processing.

The reference to Szajewski et al. '607 relates to a system and method for processing images wherein parameters of a developer solution can be monitored and based on deviations in development caused by specific deviations in the developer solution, a proper correction algorithm can be applied. As illustrated in Figs. 1, 2 and 3 of Szajewski et al. '607, film is first processed and/or developed and then, the film is scanned, read or digitized to determine the film type. In the process of Szajewski et al. '607, the interaction between the film and the constituents of the developer or processing solution can be taken into account, and this information can be utilized to monitor the chemical development process.

This is different from claim 1, wherein prior to development or processing, an identification of the film is read to first determine whether the film is compatible with dry processing, and if compatible, the developing station is adapted to accept the film and process the compatible film.

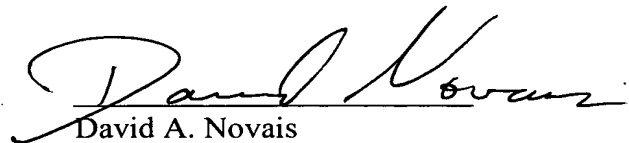
Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the reference to Szajewski et al. '607.

Claims 2-3 depend from claim 1 and set forth further unique features of the present invention which are also not believed to be shown or suggested in Szajewski et al. '607. Therefore, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

Claim 4 relates an image processing method that comprises reading an identification associated with a photographic film, with the identification identifying the photographic film as compatible with dry processing; and developing only film identified as being compatible with dry processing at a developing station adapted to dry process photographic film, to produce images exposed on the film. Based on reasons noted above with regard to claim 1, claim 4 is also believed to be allowable over Szajewski et al. '607. More specifically, claim 4 requires that the film be read for compatibility prior to development, and that the development occurs only with respect to film that is compatible with dry process as identified in the reading step. Therefore, claim 4 is also believed to be allowable over the applied reference.

In view of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the inventions defined by each of claims 1-4 are patentable, and a favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.